

# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



**Apple Trees Deteriorating.**  
From Culpeper County "I am the man who cleaned his garden of wire grass with a razor-pump sprayer. I still think it the best and quickest way. I see that a man has asked you in The Times-Dispatch about plank for blind ditches. Plank or poles will do very well where there is always water in the ditches, but where dry part of the year they will rot out in a few years. One of my neighbors put down old field pine poles with a green mill shank on top, and in ditches where water ran all the time they lasted forty years, but where the water dried out in summer they rotted in five years. Now, tell me something. Several years ago I planted some York Imperial apple trees. At first these trees bore apples of the usual size, but for several years the apples have been no larger than black walnuts and have no taste at all, and I find that the trees in my neighbors' orchards are in the same fix. Can you explain this or suggest a remedy? Not knowing what sort of treatment the trees have had, I cannot explain the failure to develop good fruit. I know that with most of our apples the first fruiting is usually larger in size of fruits than when the trees get older and the fruit tends to be smaller. Too many apples on a tree will make them smaller, and too little food in the soil, too, will tend to make a deterioration in the fruit. If you use the orchard for apples only, and do not try to make it a hay field or a pasture, you will get better apples. Then feed the trees liberally. Experiments made by the Pennsylvania Experiment Station showed the most wonderful difference between the trees that were liberally fertilized and those that were not. I should say that from your account of the trees, the failure is due to soil poverty, and that the trees need liberal fertilization. The trees cannot make apples unless they can get plenty of phosphoric acid and potash from the soil, and the ground is so poor that if the leaves are blighted or rusted. Healthy leaves are essential, and spraying in these days is essential to the keeping of the foliage healthy. Keep the foliage good and feed the roots with what they need, and you will have good fruit, but with starved roots and blighted leaves, there cannot be good fruit.

**Alfalfa on Creek Bottom.**  
"Would it do to try to raise alfalfa on creek bottom? Land is subject to overflow whenever a freshet occurs, which is almost every year, and often keeps the land under water for ten hours. Under such conditions it would be a waste of labor and money to try to grow alfalfa. Even if it did survive the overflow, the red, muddy water would ruin it. It is very probable that the overflow would destroy it. Alfalfa clover will thrive under such conditions better than any other legume crop I know of.

**Mending a Stand of Clover.**  
"I sowed sowing clover with wheat last fall. There are some spots with hardly any stand. Could I not plow these places and sow oats and crimson clover and have the crop come in with the sowing clover for hay? You could patch the field in this way, but the crimson clover will be ready to cut, and should be cut, as soon as it blooms, without regard to the condition of the oats and sowing clover. Then, as you say, you want to put the land in wheat again in the fall, I would cut the crimson clover, and then when the sowing clover is ready, cut that, and then break the land well and add 200 pounds of acid phosphate an acre and sow to coxpeas, and get another hay crop. Then, after cutting the peas you can prepare the stubble for wheat by disking it as fine as practicable, and adding more acid phosphate, and should be able to make a good wheat crop. But do not replow the land deeper than the peas, but let the summer plowing remain settled and simply disk the surface as fine as possible, and you will have better wheat than by late deep plowing.

**Grass for Pasture.**  
In Bedford County: "Please publish a grass mixture for pasture. Top soil, gray and sandy."  
In your section I think that the mixture I have used in Virginia will be good. Ten pounds of orchard grass, ten pounds of tall meadow fescue, and ten pounds of tall timothy grass. Then keep stock off till the grass gets strong, and keep the sod good by annual topdressing and mowing off the weeds, and the Virginia native bluegrass. Poor country, will come in.

**Trucking Questions.**  
From Fluvanna: "Please let me know how to pack lettuce to keep it fresh, and to whom should I ship to get fair treatment? Is there a market for orris root and the flowers?"

Our growers pull the lettuce so as to remove the roots from the soil, and then cut off the roots, dip in water and pack in boxes in ice barrels, covered with covers. It travels all right in this way. Where I live, all truck is sold either to buyers at the stations or shipped in car loads by the produce exchange to orders gotten by their traveling agents. No shipping to commission merchants here at all. Hence I cannot advise you as to the commission merchants in Washington or Baltimore, and the best way to go to the cities and find out about the men on the spot, by getting their rating from the Bradstreet Agency. Men that have a good financial rating are generally reliable. Orris root, or Iris florentina, is imported from Italy in the dried shape and is used to some extent in perfumery. But the demand is pretty well supplied, and I would not advise planting it in this country. There is so much demand for the flowers, and if there was, you could not ship them safely from Fluvanna except in refrigerators.

**More Garden Questions.**  
Fluvanna again: "I have been reading your columns in The Times-Dispatch with great interest. All farmers could be benefited by reading them, but, of course, there are some who know it all, and cannot be taught. They are always the poorest of farmers. I will answer the following in the paper: 1. What causes watermelons to rot when small? 2. What time of the moon should watermelons be planted, or do you not believe in the moon? 3. Do you think it a good idea to get the grass out of the garden after vegetables have matured? Don't you think it should stay and be burned under in the spring? Two questions are of no practical importance.

1. The rotting of the watermelons, like the rotting of any fruit, is caused by fungus disease that can be prevented by spraying with Bordeaux mixture. 2. I never cultivated watermelons and never asked her permission about planting anything. The time to plant watermelons is when you have done most part in preparing the land and manuring the hills, and the weather is warm enough. The moon has nothing to do with the crop. 3. There should not be any grass in the garden. I keep my garden at work summer and winter, and have crops on it at all times, and have no room for grass.

You let the garden get grassy and you will be breeding cutworm in the fall for damaging your plants in spring. If you run your garden properly and follow up early crops with later ones, and these with winter crops, you will not be bothered with grass. Grow grass out on the farm, but never allow any grass to get a start in the garden, and you will not have to debate about leaving it or cleaning it out. I keep my garden too busy growing vegetables and flowers to have grass in it.

**Cauling Beans.**  
A Fluvanna woman writes that she cans snap beans and would like to tell the one who asked about canning them. She says both them, as usual, and put in hot cans, with hot tops and close at once. She cans corn in same way, taking nine cups of corn, one cup of water and one cup of sugar and one cup of water and boil till well done, and then seal in hot cans.

**Marl.**  
From Amherst: "Do you know anything about the lime marl sold at Roanoke? Is it better than ground limestone? How late can I sow crimson clover in this county? Is it possible to get pure Nova Scotia plaster? If so, why do you not recommend it? What is the difference chemically between the Nova Scotia plaster and the Virginia? Please answer in The Times-Dispatch."

I do not know anything about the particular marl you mention. A good article of shell marl is as good as ground lime rock. That is if it is the pure decomposed shells. Both will be best to sow crimson clover in August, but you can sow it early in September. Plaster, whether from Nova Scotia or from Southwest Virginia is the same material, and there is no difference in the two if the samples are free from lime carbonate. Plaster has some effect in releasing insoluble potash in the soil, but carbonate of lime will do it better. Plaster is good to keep manure from losing ammonia, but acid phosphate is better. Lime carbonate sweetens an acid soil. Lime sulphate or plaster does not. I formerly used plaster in the stables to be carried out mixed in the manure, but I have found that acid phosphate is far more efficient and supplements the manure, almost trebling the efficiency of the manure. Hence I do not think that we need plaster.

**A Clover Sod and Its Treatment.**  
"Where you already have a clover sod, and expect to let the same land remain in clover another year, is better to plow in that clover sod in the fall or winter, or is it better to let the land remain without plowing? In other words, can you cut a cake and keep it too? If you plow under the clover this fall, you will certainly not have it next year. Therefore I cannot understand what you mean. Of course, you can keep the clover over next year, and if you are going to put the land in corn the following year you can turn the clover sod down in the fall and sow a winter cover crop of rye or crimson clover to turn in the spring and bring the rotten clover sod back where it will be of most use to the crop.

**Tomatoes Dying.**  
"What makes my tomato plants die? They seem to be doing well, but suddenly wilt and die in a day." Doubtless you have the Southern bacterial blight. There is no known cure or remedy. It is supposed that this disease had not invaded the upper Piedmont section, though common in the lower and warmer parts. The only thing to do is to avoid infected soil. Perhaps something might be done by taking seed from plants that remain healthy where others die, and in this way breed up a resistant strain.

**Sweet Potatoes in Upper Piedmont.**  
"Some of our farmers are figuring on growing sweet potatoes for market, and we thought that you could give us some information in regard to the crop." You are right up near the Blue Ridge, and so far as my experience in similar locality is concerned there is little land well suited to sweet potatoes as a market crop. I had some bottom land in Albemarle where the ground had covered sand over the level bottom, and there I could grow sweet potatoes. But as a rule the uplands in your section are not suited to large culture of the sweet potato. The Northern markets demand a dry and mealy sweet potato, and these are best grown on the warm and level sandy soils of the Tidewater section. Doubtless you can find spots in your section that will grow fairly good sweet potatoes, and might grow some for home use, but I really think that local conditions are against the production of the crop on a commercial scale. You could not possibly compete either in crop or quality with the Eastern Shore counties. If you grow them for Northern shipment you must grow the Noddy and the Golden Wonder. The Big Stem Jersey and the Gold Skin and Nansens are the kinds they want, and not the yam sorts that they do not know how to cook. Better go slow with sweet potatoes in your section.

**Fertilizer Exhaustion.**  
"How long does it take a growing crop to exhaust an application of fertilizer? This will depend on the amount applied and the kind of fertilizer used. Nitrate of soda will be speedily exhausted, and if not used by plants will soon leach from the soil. Acid phosphate and potash will remain in the soil till used, and if there is more than the immediate crop will use there will be some influence from them on the soil for three years or more. An application of new pulverized phosphate will make little show in the crop the first year, but more in the second, and still more in the third year. A very light application may be well used up by the growing crop, and the plants encouraged by it will be drawing on the natural store in the soil, and in this way the fertilizer will have diminished the fertility of the soil, as it has done 1,000 times all over the South.

**Mixing a Fertilizer.**  
"I have 16 per cent acid phosphate, nitrate of soda, drill blood and muriate of potash. I want to make for winter truck crops a fertilizer that will have 7 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphoric acid and 16 per cent potash. How much of each of these shall I use?" To make 8 per cent phosphoric acid you want 160 pounds, and you can get this in 1,000 pounds of the 16 per cent article. Ten per cent potash means 200 pounds, and to get this you take 400 pounds of the 50 per cent muriate of potash. This will leave you 600 pounds of material to get 140 pounds or 7 per cent of nitrogen, and I do not know any material that will give that in 600 pounds. In fact, I do not think that with the materials you have you can make any such mixture. You can, of course, make 7 per cent of nitrogen, but will have to decrease the percentages of phosphoric acid and potash to get it. But in fact, I cannot see the need of it. I have used an article that has 7 per cent of ammonia, but that is not 7 per cent nitrogen by a good deal. You can make 3 per cent nitrogen with the percentages you want of the other things and that is enough. It is odd that farmers and truckers puzzle over percentages, not realizing that per cent in a fertilizer simply means so many pounds in 100.

## NARROWSCAPE OF PARK IN AUTO

Occupants of Car Cut and Bruised—Annual Farmers' Picnic Next Saturday.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Culpeper, Va., August 17.—While returning from Culpeper to their home in the country last Thursday night, Charles Forbes, the president of the Culpeper National Bank, with his wife, son and daughter, who were in the automobile with him, had a very narrow escape from death, when two runaway horses dashed into the machine which they were riding. The accident occurred on a hill near the horse show grounds. A four-horse wagon, containing a party of young people who were returning from moonlight hay ride, was descending the hill when the two lead horses, freed from the wagon, became frightened and raced madly down the hill, while the Forbes automobile was ascending. All of the occupants of the car were cut and bruised, and one of the horses fearfully mutilated.

Notwithstanding the appearance of the dread chestnut blight in several places, all indications in upper Culpeper and Madison Counties are that the coming chestnut crop will be very large. Last year the yield throughout this section was unusually large, and banner prices prevailed on account of the scarcity of the nuts further north. The remarkable price of \$15 a bushel was paid in Baltimore at the beginning of the season.

Peyton Guard, colored, who had been a faithful servant in the family of Mrs. Charles Williams, of "Fairview," for nearly twenty years, died at his Williams home this week after a brief illness, during which he was tenderly nursed by the members of the family whom he had served for so long. This old man, who had been deaf and dumb for the whole of his long life of seventy-four years, was born on the estate of Thomas Robertson, "Locust Grove," in Orange County. After the death of Mr. Robertson he lived for a time with his daughter, Mrs. Daniels, of Culpeper, and for the past twenty years with Mrs. Daniels' daughter, Mrs. Charles Williams. During the Civil War he remained entirely faithful to his owners and was often intrusted by them with articles of value which they wished hidden from the enemy. His last years were held in the colored Baptist Church in Culpeper, and was largely attended by both white and colored.

Sheriff Bond, of Orange, was in Culpeper this week with five prisoners whom he brought to the Culpeper jail for safer keeping than the Orange jail seemed to guarantee. They will be here until the next term of court.

The event in this county yesterday was the annual field day of the Jefferson Athletic Club held on the athletic grounds at that place, large crowds from various parts of the county, as well as from Fauquier and Rapahannock, attending. Among the events of interest were baseball games, relay and foot racing, and fudge batting. A band of music was also in attendance, and dancing was continuous throughout the day. Lunches and other refreshments were served in the grounds. J. W. Thayer, the secretary of the club, was in charge of arrangements.

A copy of a Culpeper newspaper of the year 1839, when Culpeper was known as "Fairfax" was found recently behind the mirror of an old bureau originally owned by Mrs. Catherine Lewis, of Madison Courthouse, and is now in possession of R. M. Apperson, of Culpeper, a grandson of Mrs. Lewis. Among the interesting items in this time-worn paper was the following unique advertisement on the first page: "One cent reward.—Ran away from the subscriber, near Woodville, on the 25th instant, William H. Mozingo, a white boy about eleven years old, intended to learn the farming business. The above reward will be given for bringing him home, but no thanks or charges. Nathaniel Miller, Culpeper County, Va., August 7, 1839."

News was received here this week of the death in Alexandria of Colonel William E. Reppert, who was for many years superintendent of the Culpeper National Cemetery before coming to Alexandria, where he had a similar position. Mr. Dow, the aged Union veteran, who now holds this position, is a descendant of the famous Alonzo Dow, of New England.

The annual "farmers' picnic," always one of the events of the year, will be held on next Saturday, near Mitchell's Station, this county, and W. H. Brown, field agent of the department of farm improvement for the Southern Railroad Company, has arranged an interesting program. Among the speakers will be Dr. William Hart Dexter and Dr. Helmer Rabild, of the Department of Agriculture, and representatives from the State college at Blacksburg. Conveniences will meet trains at Mitchell's Station, and the picnic grounds are about halfway between the two stations, and a large crowd is expected.

William Long, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Long, of Culpeper, has been appointed to the principalship of the High School at Culpeper for the coming session. Mr. Long was a student at Randolph-Macon in Ashland last year and won several medals there for scholarship, in addition to the Midway medal for debating.

A reunion of the Irvine family is being held at "Hill Crest," the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Irvine, near Culpeper, and among those present are the two Presbyterian ministers of the family—Rev. J. E. Irvine and wife, of Altoona, Pa., and Rev. S. L. Irvine, wife and two sons, of Street, Md.—Miss Nanine Irvine, of Baltimore, is also spending several weeks at "Hill Crest." Mrs. T. D. Shadrack has recently sold her fine farm and residence on the Madison Road, three miles from Culpeper, to Mr. Chapman, of Jamaica, L. I., who will take possession of his new purchase in the early fall.

**CIRCUIT COURT ADJOURNS.**  
Number of Decees Entered—Baptist Association Meets.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Amherst, Va., August 17.—The August term of the Amherst Circuit Court adjourned Friday afternoon and Judge Gordon went to his home at Leesylvania. A large number of chancery decrees were entered and some criminal matters disposed of.

The annual session of the Piedmont Baptist Association was held this week at Rose Union Church, in Nelson County. A number of Amherst people attended. Reports read at the association showed a decided growth in the various departments, and were very encouraging.

The association will meet next year at Emanuel Baptist Church, in Amherst County. Rev. E. H. Robertson will preach the opening sermon, with Rev. George Burdick as alternate. The rains of last week did great benefit to corn and tobacco, which was not seriously injured by the hailstorms that have occurred so frequently this summer in different sections of the county. Pastures which were almost dry a few days ago have also gotten green again. Fruit is fairly plentiful on the market here, but is being sold at a high price.

**Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA**

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THE ANSWER BOOK. It permits a contestant to make as many as ten different answers to each picture, or 770 answers in all, while having only ONE COPY of each picture. You CANNOT have any use for more than one copy of each picture, if you have an ANSWER BOOK, though you make the limit of ten answers to each picture. Read about the ANSWER BOOK below, and in to-day's contest story.



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You get all the pictures published to date FREE with the Catalogue. This Catalogue is sold at 35 cents, by mail 40 cents, and it contains all the correct titles to the seventy-seven pictures.

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Picture No. 23

Date, August 18th



What Book Does This Picture Represent?  
Write Title and Name of Author in Form Below

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES, 77. Contest began July 27th. Each day a different picture appears in this space. Cut them out. Save them until the last picture appears on October 11th. Don't send in partial lists. Wait until you have all the answers to the 77. Read Rules, Daily Story and Special Announcements in another part of this paper. It will help you win a prize. Extra pictures and coupons of any date that have appeared may be had at 2c. Enter to-day without registering your name. Merely Save Pictures and Coupons as they appear.

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Suppose you discover in your search through the Catalogue seven different titles that seem to you might fit a picture. You cannot decide which of these seven titles is to your mind the best one to submit. So you submit all the seven titles as your answers to that picture. If you have an Answer Book you can submit the seven titles, and yet need only one copy of the picture.

If you do not have an Answer Book you must get a separate picture and coupon, on which to submit each title.

If you want to submit a total of 600 titles, and have an Answer Book, you need only one copy of each of the 77 pictures. If you do not have an Answer Book you must secure 600 pictures and coupons on which to submit your 600 titles.

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